

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5           1.    An electronic system for facilitating disposition of  
an asset currently under lease by an asset user, comprising:

            at least one database configured to store  
information associated with a plurality of assets;

            a set of pre-defined conditions related to a  
recommendation of asset disposition based on an automated  
analysis of said information within said system, at least one  
of said conditions being met; and

            a hierarchy of disposition options generated by said  
system based on said at least one of said conditions, wherein  
said conditions and said options are chosen to reduce expense  
by maximizing return on investment to the asset user.

20           2.    An electronic system as recited in claim 1, wherein  
said pre-defined conditions include at least one of a time  
variable and a cost variable.

25           3.    An electronic system as recited in claim 2, wherein  
said time variable comprises a passage of time, said at least  
one of said conditions being met when an asset approaches the  
end of a lease term.

30           4.    An electronic system as recited in claim 3, wherein  
said options include lease renewal; asset buyout; and asset  
return.

5. An electronic system as recited in claim 3, wherein said time variable comprises asset usage within a predetermined period of time, said at least one of said conditions being met when asset use exceeds a usage criteria based on time in service.

6. An electronic system as recited in claim 5, wherein said options include the leasing of additional assets to reduce the amount of use of a pre-existing asset.

7. An electronic system as recited in claim 2, wherein said cost variable includes a comparison of a cost of leasing an asset with a threshold level representing lower cost alternatives.

8. An electronic system as recited in claim 7, wherein said options include the leasing of additional assets.

9. An electronic system as recited in claim 1, wherein said information includes asset identification data, maintenance history data, and lease term.

10. An electronic system as recited in claim 9, wherein said identification data comprises an asset make/model and serial number.

11. An electronic system as recited in claim 9, wherein said lease term includes at least two of a lease start date, a lease termination date, and a length of time between said lease start date and said lease termination date.

12. An electronic system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a manual check and confirmation of said hierarchy of options, wherein a rejection of said hierarchy generates feedback selectively modifying said availability of future options by said system.

13. An electronic system as recited in claim 1, wherein said options are presented to the asset user for consideration in order of expected acceptance.

14. An electronic system as recited in claim 1, wherein one of said options is a new lease, wherein upon acceptance of said new lease, a new asset is delivered to the asset user, an off-leased asset is picked up, and said off-leased asset is disposed.

15. An electronic system as recited in claim 1, wherein one of said options is a renewed lease, wherein upon acceptance of said renewed lease renewal documents are executed by the asset user.

16. An electronic system as recited in claim 1, wherein one of said options is an asset buyout, wherein upon acceptance of said asset buyout, the asset is purchased.

17. An electronic system for facilitating disposition of an asset currently under lease by an asset user, comprising:

at least one database configured to store information associated with a plurality of assets;

5 a set of pre-defined conditions related to a recommendation of asset disposition based on an automated analysis of said information within said system, each of said conditions comprising at least one of a time variable and a cost variable, at least one of said conditions being met;

10 a hierarchy of disposition options generated by said system based on said at least one of said conditions, wherein said conditions and said options are chosen to reduce expense by maximizing return on investment to the asset user; and

15 a manual check and confirmation of said hierarchy of options, wherein a rejection of said hierarchy generates feedback selectively modifying said availability of future options by said system.

18. An electronic system as recited in claim 17, wherein said  
20 time variable comprising a passage of time, said at least one of said conditions being met when an asset approaches the end of a lease term or when asset usage exceeds a usage criteria based on time in service; and

25 said cost viable including a comparison of a cost of leasing an asset with a threshold level representing lower cost alternatives.

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19. An electronic system as recited in claim 17, said information including asset identification data, maintenance history data, and lease term, wherein said identification data comprises an asset make/model and serial number, and said  
5 lease term includes at least two of a lease start date, a lease termination date, and a length of time between said lease start date and said lease termination date.

20. An electronic system as recited in claim 17, wherein said options are presented to the asset user for consideration in order of expected acceptance, and wherein,

a first of said options comprises a new lease such that upon acceptance of said new lease, a new asset is delivered to the asset user, an off-leased asset is picked up, and said off-leased asset is disposed,

a second of said options is a renewed lease such that upon acceptance of said renewed lease renewal documents are executed by the asset user, and

a third of said options is an asset buyout such that upon  
20 acceptance of said asset buyout, the asset is purchased.

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21. A method for facilitating disposition of an asset currently under lease an asset user, comprising the steps of:

configuring at least one database and storing information associated with a plurality of assets;

5 analyzing said information in accordance with a set of pre-defined conditions, each of said conditions comprising at least one of a time variable and a cost variable;

meeting at least one of said pre-defined conditions;

10 recommending asset disposition using a hierarchy of disposition options; and

selecting said conditions and said options by reducing expense and maximizing return on investment to the asset user.

22. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising the step of:

15 instituting a manual check and confirmation of said hierarchy of options; and

20 said rejection of said hierarchy generating feedback, selectively modifying said availability of future options by said system.

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23. An electronic system as recited in claim 21, including the further step presenting said hierarchy of options to the asset user for consideration in order of expected acceptance, and wherein,

5 a first of said options comprises a new lease such that upon accepting said new lease, delivering a new asset to the asset user and picking up and disposing of an off-leased asset,

10 a second of said options is a renewed lease such that upon accepting said renewed lease renewal, the asset user executing renewal documents, and

15 a third of said options is an asset buyout such that upon accepting said asset buyout, the asset user purchases the asset.

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